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Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 031694
ORIGIN SS-05

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /006 R

66011
DRAFTED BY: E:EJOHNSTON
APPROVED BY: E:EJOHNSTON
----------067324 070358Z /64
P 070301Z FEB 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 031694

ATTN: UNDER SECRETARY RICHARD N COOPER

FOLLOWING REPEAT USUN NEW YORK 0376 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO ATHENS, BERN, BONN, BRUSSELS, CANBERRA, COPENHAGEN, DUBLIN, GENEVA, THE HAGUE, HELSINKI, LISBON, LONDON, LUXEMBOURG, MADRID, OTTAWA, OSLO, PARIS, ROME, STOCKHOLM TOKYO, WELLINGTON 03 FEB 78

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 0376

USEEC
USOECD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EGEN, UN, ECOSOC, PORG
SUBJ: UN OVERVIEW MECHANISM (COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE):
MEETING OF NEW YORK OECD MISSIONS

REF: (A) STATE 17255; (B) STATE 15279; (C) STATE 28091

1. SUMMARY: DANISH DELEGATION (EC PRESIDENCY) INVITED DELEGATIONS OF ALL ADDRESSEE COUNTRIES TO MEETING ON MORNING OF THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, TO DISCUSS ORGANIZATIONAL SES-
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SION OF OVERVIEW MCEHANISM. DISCUSSION PROCEEDED ON LINES OF FOLLOWING OUTLINE: (1) AGENDA; (2) ORGANIZATION OF WORK; (3) TIMETABLE; (4) BUREAU; (5) LEVEL OF REPRESENTATION. OTHER THAN GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT A FORMALLY LIMITED STEERING GROUP WAS NOT FEASIBLE, NO CLEAR CONSENSUS EMERGED. END SUMMARY.

2. AGENDA. DANES BEGAN DISCUSSION BY DISTRIBUTING COPIES OF A LIST CONTAINING NINE ITEMS, SAID TO HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED BY JAMAICA AT BEGINNING OF G-27 DISCUSSIONS MORNING OF JANU-

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ARY 31 (SEE PARAGRAPH 10 BELOW). AFTER THREE G-27 MEETINGS, LIST REPORTEDLY THREE OR FOUR ITEMS LONGER. DEPARTMENT WILL NOTE ORIGINAL LIST CONTAINS ENERGY. REPRESENTATIVES OF U.S., UK, FRG, AND FRANCE SPOKE OUT STRONGLY AGAINST SHOPPING LIST APPROACH; NETHERLANDS REPRESENTATIVE AGREED IT "NOT HELPFUL," AND JAPAN ALLOWED POSSIBILITY OF "INDICATIVE LIST" IF THIS MEANT NEITHER OBLIGATION TO DISCUSS ALL ITEMS NOR DISCUSSION IN ISOLATION. EC COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE PRESENTED SLIGHTLY MORE "CLUSTERED" LIST (SEE PARAGRAPH 11 BELOW), WHILE FRG REP NOTED THAT A "BROAD LIST" SUBMITTED BY WEST WOULD BE USEFUL, AT LEAST TACTICALLY. U.S. REP NOTED EC TOPICS STILL TOO NARROW, E.G. TRADE, AND CALLED ATTENTION TO MORE GENERALIZED APPROACH AS GIVEN FINAL PAGE REFTEL. A. WE ALSO NOTED THAT THEMES OR TOPICS SHOULD GO ACROSS ALL FOUR PARTS OF MANDATE (REFTEL B) WHICH SHOULD NOT BE SEEN AS BASIS OF AGENDA.

3. AFTER BREAK TO DISCUSS WORKING ARRANGEMENTS (PARA-GRAPH 4), DISCUSSION OF AGENDA QUICKLY RESUMED UNDER HEADING OF "TIMETABLE." CANADA EXPECTED ONE MEETING IN 1978, TWO IN 1979, AND ".943" IN 1980. UK AND FRANCE VOICED PREFERENCE FOR MEETINGS "AS AND WHEN REQUIRED" WITH DISCREATION FOR BUREAU AND WITHOUT A FIXED AGENDA OF ANY KIND. FRG NOTED THAT IF THERE WERE NO FORMAL STEERING
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GROUP AND NO WORKING GROUPS, COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE WOULD CLEARLY HAVE TO MEET MORE OFTEN FOR "NATURAL SELECTION" TO TAKE PLACE. IF THERE WERE NO FIXED SCHEDULE, HIGH-LEVEL REPRESENTATIVES WOULD NOT ATTEND, AND PRESSURE FOR WORKING GROUPS WOULD MOUNT. U.S. SUGGESTED AN AD HOC APPROACH COULD PLACE UNDUE EMPHASIS ON FUNCTIONS B AND C OF MANDATE (REFTEL B), WHEREAS WE WERE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN THE KIND OF DISCUSSIONS FORESEEN BY FUNCTION D, WHICH HAD BEEN U.S. PROPOSAL. NETHERLANDS SUGGESTED BASING AGENDA ON CAL-ENDAR OF CONFERENCES, BUT THIS WAS GENERALLY REJECTED AS BEING EVEN LESS DESIRABLE. UK, DEFENDING ITS POSITION AGAINST FIXED DATES, NOTED INCONSISTENCY BETWEEN FIXING DATES BUT RESISTING A SPECIFIC AGENDA. DANES RECALLED PROPOSAL IN U.S. PAPER FOR INFREQUENT PLENARY MEETINGS WITH INTERMEDIATE MEETINGS OF STEERING GROUP. U.S. REP NOTED THAT, WHILE THIS WAS IDEAL FROM U.S. VIEWPOINT, WE WERE NOT SANGUIE THAT IT WOULD BE ACCEPTED, AND, IF IT WERE NOT, THE GERMAN ARGUMENTS SEEMED VALID. IF, AS UK NOTED, FIXED DATES IMPLIED AN AGENDA AND 77 WERE COMPILING A LIST, THEN PERHAPS FINAL OUTCOME WE MIGHT WORK FOR -- ALTHOUGH NOT IDEAL FOR U.S VIEWPOINT -- WAS AGENDA FOR THE FIRST SUBSTANTIVE MEETING ONLY BASED ON CLEAR INTERRELATED CLUSTER OF THEMES. FOR EXAMPLE, TRADE, INVESTMENT, FINANCE, AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER SEEMED TO FIT TOGETHER. EC REP SPOKE IN SUPPORT OF THIS ANALYSIS, AND DISCUSSION ENDED. FRG REP LATER EXPRESSED AGREEMENT WITH THIS ANALYSIS.

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4. WORKING ARRANGEMENTS. DANISH CHAIRMAN BEGAN BY
ASKING COMMENTS ON U.S. PAPER (I.E. TEXT BASED ON REFTEL A)
WHICH MANY DELEGATIONS HAD RECEIVED FROM CAPITALS. ITALY,
UK, CANADA, JAPAN, BELGIUM, NETHERLANDS, SWITZERLAND, AND
EC COMMISSION EXPRESSED VARYING DEGRESS OF DOUBT ABOUT POS-
SIBILITY OF CREATING A FORMALLY LIMITED STEERING GROUP, AL-
THOUGH MOST SAW THE NEED AND THOUGHT IT WOULD EVOLVE DE FACTO.
ITALIAN RESERVATIONS WERE THE STRONGEST; MOST OTHERS ARGUED
ON BASIS G-77 OBJECTIONS. FRANCE SUPPORTED RESTRICTED GROUP
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BUT BELIEVED IT NECESSARY TO HAVE 35 TO 45 MEMBERS. CANADA
RAISED POSSIBILITY OF SETTING UP WORKING GROUPS LATER IN LIFE
OF COMMITTEE, BUT MOST SUBSEQUENT SPEAKERS (INCLUDING JAPAN,
SWITZERLAND, EC, AND NETHERLANDS, AND U.S.) OPPOSED THESE.
5. BUREAU. DANES NOTED CONSENSUS ON A NORMAL FIVE-MAN
BUREAU AND POINTED DISCUSSION TO ITS COMPOSITION. UK REP
NOTED THIS AN IMPORTANT QUESTION AND SUGGESTED THAT WE TAKE
ROTATION AS BASIC ASSUMPTION. IT REMAINED TO KNOW WHETHER
"ANNUAL BASIS" MEANT THREE BUREAUS (CALENDAR YEAR BASIS) OR
TWO, AND WHO WOULD GO FIRST. SWEDISH DELEGATE NOTED THAT
WHILE 27 HAD NOT YET ESTABLISHED GROUP POSITION, SWEDES HAD
BEEN ASKED BY SOME OF 77 IF THEY WOULD CONSIDER FIRST
CHAIRMANSHIP; THEY WERE "CONSIDERING" PROPOSAL WHICH WAS
BASED ON ASSUMPTION OF ONLY ONE CHANGE OF BUREAUS, WITH FUTURE
LDC CHAIRMAN SERVING AS A VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR FIRST YEAR.
DISCUSSON ENDED WITH NO CLEAR CONSENSUS OF HOW UK QUES-
TION WOULD, OR SHOULD, BE ANSWERED BUT WITH SUGGESTION (BY
DANES) THAT THIS APPROPRIATE FOR DISCUSSION AT FORMAL WEO
GROUP MEETING. NOTE: IN SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION WITH CANA-
DIAN REP, WE LEARNED THAT SWEDISH CANDIDATES WAS OLA ULLSTEN,
MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION, AND THAT
NORWEGIANS, WHO HAD ALSO BEEN APPROACHED, WERE THINKING OF
STOLTENBERG. CANADA HAD BEEN APPROACHED BUT WAS NOT INTER-
ESTED ALTHOUGH ALL AWARE OF ALGERIAN CANDIDACY, NO OTHER LDC
CANADIDATE WAS KNOWN TO GROUP.
6. LEVEL OF REPRESENTATION. EACH DELEGATION NOTED EX-
PECTED LEVEL OF REPRESENTATION AT FIRST MEETING AS FOLLOWS
(ALL TITLES PRESUMABLY REFER TO FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS):
DENMARK- MISSION PLUS "HIGH-LEVEL" OFFICIAL FROM COPENHAGEN;
ITALA- DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC AFFIARS;
AMBASSADOR WOULD PROBABLY HEAD DELEGATION;
NEW ZEALAND- "MISSION WOULD DO MOST.";
UK- ASSISTANT UNDER SECRETARY FROM LONDON; AMBASSADOR WOULD HEAD;
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AUSTRALIA- MISSION WOULD BEGIN;
GREECE- MISSION;
NETHERLANDS- EITHER VON GORKORM OR DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS; AMBASSADOR WOULD HEAD;

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FRANCE - BOCKET (DEPUTY DIRECTOR);
FINLAND- A DEPARTMENT HEAD PLUS MISSION;
JAPAN - AMBASSADOR AS HEAD WITH TOKYO DELEGATES;
FRG- AA DEPUTY DEPARTMENT HEAD (LIKE FRANCE); LEADERSHIP
OF DELEGATION NOT DECIDED;
SWEDEN- LEADERSHIP NOT DECIDED -- "ONE OR TWO
DEPARTMENT HEADS FROM CAPITAL".;
SPAIN- SAME AS SWEDEN;
IRELAND- MISSION PLUS ONE FROM CAPITAL; AMBASSADOR AS HEAD;
PORTUGAL- SAME AS IRELAND;
NORWAY- MISSION PLUS A DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL;
BELGIUM- ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS;
AMBASSADOR AS HEAD;
CANADA- DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY AND ADIRECTOR GENERAL;
AMBASSADOR AS HEAD;
SWITZERLAND - MISSION AND BERN OFFICIALS;
EC- NEW YORK PLUS "EMINENT PERSONS" FROM BRUSSELS;
U.S. - US REP INDICATED UNOFFICIALLY THAT WHILE
DELEGATION NOT YET NAMED, HORMATS AND FRANK WOULD
BE PRINCIPAL WASHINGTON DELEGATES.

7. OTHER DISCUSSION. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON DECISION-
MAKING PROCESS, U.S. REP, DRAWING ON REFTEL A (STRATEGY),
URGED THAT COMMITTEE NOT BECOME RESOLUTION-DRAFTING EXERCISE.
ITALY AND FRG AGREED BUT URGED WE NOT EXPRESSLY DEMAND ITS
EXCLUSION. WE SHOULD WORK FOR UNDERSTANDING
OF "LONG-TERM" NATURE OF COMMITTEE'S WORK, INCLUDING THAT AS
PREPCOM FOR 1980 MINISTERIAL. FRANCE OPPOSED IDEA OF HOLDING
A MINISTERIAL IN MAY COINCIDENT WITH SPECIAL SESSION ON DIS-
ARMAMENT; THIS WAS TOO EARLY.
8. COMMENT: OTHER THAN NEAR-CONSENSUS ON IMPOSSIBILITY
OF OBTAINING A FORMAL RESTRICTED GROUP, DISCUSSION REVEALED
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GREAT DISSIMILARITY AND, INDEED, LACK OF DEVELOPMENT OF VIEWS
ON KEY QUESTION OF AGENDA/TIMETABLE, AS WELL AS ON BUREAU.
UK/ FRENCH POSITION ON AGENDA GOT NO OTHER SUPPORT, WHILE CON-
CEPT OF BROAD CLUSTERING, AS ADVOCATED IN VARIOUS WAYS BY US,
FRG, AND EC SEEMED TO HAVE CONSIDERABLE APPEAL. ASSUMING THIS
SITUATION CONTINUES, MISSION BELIEVES U.S. IN A POSITION
TO PROVIDE LEADERSHIP TO WESTERN GROUP NOW THAT DEVISIVE
QUESTION OF STEERING GRUUP HAS BEEN SET ASIDE (REFTEL C).
9. MISSION WILL DISTRIBUTE COPY OF REVISED U.S. POSI-
TION (PARAGRAPH 7 OF REFTEL C) TO MISSIONS OF
ALL INFO POSTS.
10. JAMAICAN PROPOSALS.
(A) DEBT PROBLEMS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, IN
THE LIGHT OF THE RESULTS OF THE FORTHCOMING
MINISTERIAL MEETING;
(B) COMMON FUND, IN THE LIGHT OF THE OUTCOME OF
THE RESUMED NEGOTIATIONS;
(C) THE RESULTS OF THE MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS;

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(D) TRANSFER OF RESOURCES IN REAL TERMS
(1) TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THESE TRANSFERS;
(2) INCREASE IN THE VOLUME OF SUCH TRANSFERS;
(E) REFORM OF THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY SYSTEM;
(F) QUESTION OF ENERGY WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS;
(G) STRENGTHENING THE INDUSTRIAL CAPACITY OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES;
(H) THE TREND TOWARDS PROTECTIONISM;
(I) IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SPECIAL ACTION PROGRAMME OF THE PARIS CONFERENCE.
11. EC COMMISSION "TOPICS."
(A) RAW MATERIALS, INCLUDING COMMON FUND AND COMPENSATORY FINANCING;
(B) TRADE;
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(C) INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION, INCLUDING TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY AND INVESTMENT;
(D) TRANSFER OF RESOURCES;
(E) FOOD AND AGRICULTURE;
(F) INFRASTRUCTURE;
(G) PROBLEMS OF LEAST DEVELOPED;
(H) "VARIOUS"
YOUNG

UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 sep 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING AGENDA, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE031694
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: E:EJOHNSTON
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D780056-0685
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197802120/baaafbtf.tel
Line Count: 249
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3f9bb5cf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) STATE 17255; (B) STATE 15279; (C) STATE 28091
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3474976
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UN OVERVIEW MECHANISM (COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE): MEETING OF NEW YORK OECD MISSIONS
TAGS: EGEN, PORG, UN, ECOSOC, COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
To: PANAMA
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3f9bb5cf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014